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# REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • SPRING 1993

## WCRO Answers Desperate Calls from Hawaii, Guam

Unfortunately, in recent months the United States has endured several major natural disasters: Hurricanes Andrew (in Florida and Louisiana) and Iniki (in Hawaii) and Typhoon Omar (in Guam). The WCRO was actively involved in relief efforts in Hawaii and Guam. The HSUS headquarters and regional staff assisted victims in Florida and Louisiana.

When reports indicated that Iniki was fast approaching Hawaii, WCRO investigators Kurt Lapham and Eric Sakach started making calls to the islands to advise humane societies that The HSUS was ready and willing to help in any way we could. However, we were unable for many days

to make contact with the Kauai Humane Society (KHS) on the island hardest hit by Iniki. When we were finally able to talk with society director Sherri Hoe, we learned the society was in desperate need of temporary cages and carriers to help handle the large number of animals displaced by the hurricane. WCRO Director Charlene Drennon purchased seventy-five portable carriers and shipped them to the KHS. About a month later, when Lapham contacted the society to see how things were progressing, he was told that it needed portable pens to house puppies. The WCRO was able to send the equipment. "It *continued on page 2*

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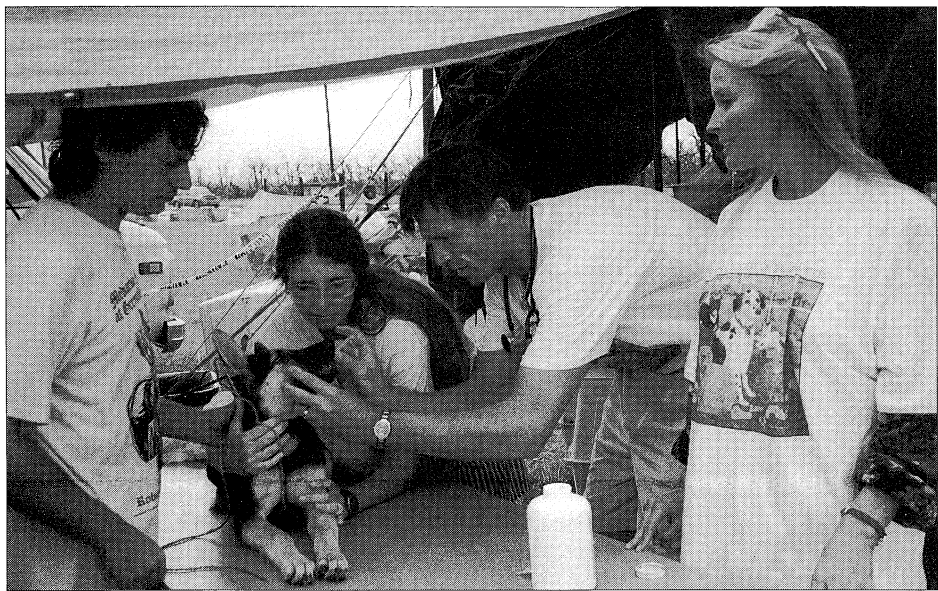
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## Don't Shoot Coots, HSUS Tells Oxnard

In November the WCRO received a flurry of complaints from citizens who were outraged by the shooting of coots at the River Ridge Golf Course in Oxnard, Calif. WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach contacted the city's parks superintendent to register a complaint and recommend several commonsense, humane strategies for resolving problems posed by excessive concentrations of waterfowl. "One shouldn't be surprised that most wintering waterfowl are attracted to large expanses of green grass dotted with ponds. We are dismayed when people expect a sterile environment, and municipal officials react with cruel and ineffective control methods," said Sakach. Information about humane and effective wildlife-control methods has since been forwarded to the superintendent with our recommendations.



*After Hurricane Iniki devastated Kauai, the WCRO sent portable carriers to the island. Similar carriers, shown here under a tent supplied by the U.S. Army, temporarily housed animals at a small-animal MASH unit sponsored by The HSUS near Homestead, Fla.*



In August at the HSUS MASH unit in south Florida, HSUS Staff Veterinarian Steve Kritsick, D.V.M., treats one of Hurricane Andrew's younger victims. Actress Bo Derek (right), lending a hand in the disaster area, looks on.

## Hurricane Relief

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really feels good to be able to send people equipment they need, when they really need it," said Drennon.

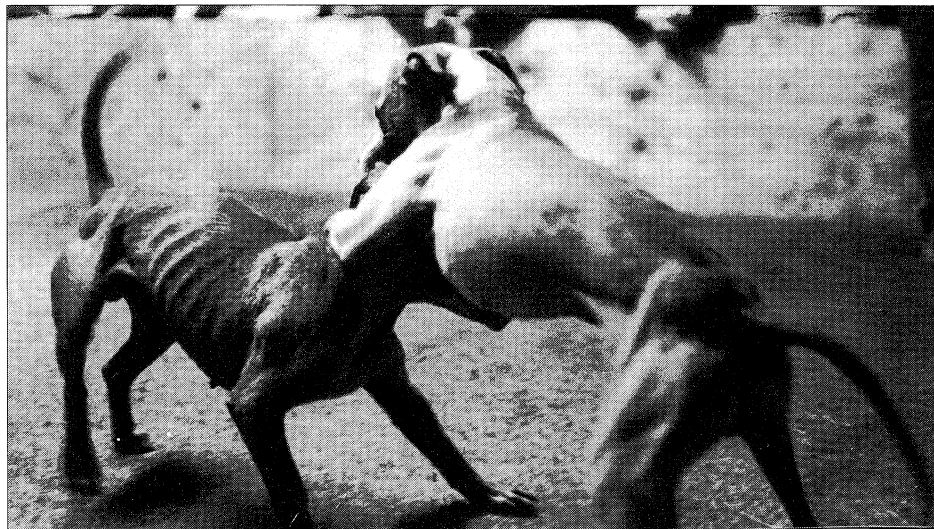
Shortly afterward, Lapham received a call from the Guam Animals In Need shelter. Typhoon Omar had severely damaged the shelter and the staff needed assistance. It had learned of our help to Hawaii. The HSUS was able to send Guam Animals In Need several thousand dollars, money do-

nated specifically for hurricane-relief efforts, to help it rebuild its shelter and construct a cat facility.

Not long after these disasters hit, authorities in California issued one of the first-ever earthquake warnings for a large portion of the central and southern coast. Drennon was on the phone, contacting local humane and animal-control agencies, and offering advice and assistance should it become necessary. Fortunately the predicted quake did not materialize. When the next disaster inevitably strikes, the WCRO will be ready to help animals in need.

## Dogfighters Beware: Group Is on the Watch

A group of concerned Oakland, Calif., residents is seeking to end dogfighting in their city. In October citizens, civic leaders, and neighborhood-watch participants attended a meeting to discuss with a panel of humane and law-enforcement officials the alarming increase in illegal dogfighting in the city, mostly by young gang members. WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach was a guest speaker; he was joined by members of the Oakland Police Department/Animal Control, the Oakland SPCA, and San Francisco Animal Care and Control.



An Oakland group is fighting to rid the city of scenes like this one. In a fighting pit, dogs kept painfully thin and trained for violence bite and tear at each other.

## Billboard: Spay Or Neuter Pets

Thanks to the efforts of WCRO Director Charlene Drennon, the city of Sacramento, Calif., donated billboard space adjacent to one of the city's busiest freeways for the month of December. The billboard, whose message encouraged responsible pet ownership, was visible to thousands of shoppers frequenting one of the area's liveliest shopping malls during the Christmas shopping season and to thousands of commuters as well. Drennon persuaded Sacramento's then-mayor Ann Rudin to donate the space to The HSUS in thanks for Drennon's service on the Sacramento City/County Pet Overpopulation Task Force. Given the billboard's success, the city may donate space again in 1993.



Spay/neuter sign urges pet owners to act.

## National Sponsors Proclaim 1993 "The Year of the Cat"

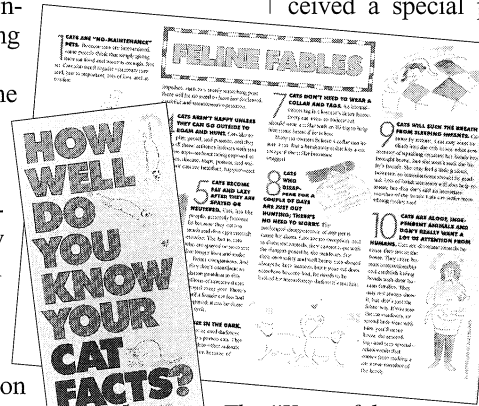
The nation's four largest animal-protection organizations have united to declare 1993 "The Year of the Cat" in an effort to educate people nationwide about the rewards and responsibilities of owning domestic cats.

The HSUS, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and the American Humane Association invite local humane societies, animal shelters, and veterinarians to join them in promoting this effort. The goal is to present the facts and dispel the myths about cats, who are often perceived as mysterious, aloof, and frightening creatures requiring little care or attention. The

organizations hope the information will curb abuse and neglect of domestic cats and encourage responsible pet ownership.

Local humane agencies recently received a special packet that explains the national campaign. The packet included a sample proclamation, a logo slick, a list of suggested activities, a brochure describing myths and facts about cats, and an order form. Both the campaign poster and brochure feature whimsical drawings by Suzy Becker, author and illustrator of the national best-seller *I Need to Know I Learned from My Cat*.

For more details about the campaign, ask your local humane society or write to "Year of the Cat," 350 S. Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130.



The "Year of the Cat" brochure

## HSUS Shelter-Evaluation Team Lends Expertise in California

WCRO investigators Kurt Lapham and Eric Sakach joined The HSUS's new shelter-evaluation team recently in California.

The HSUS Companion Animals section developed the evaluation team in response to the need within the animal-sheltering community for professional, standardized analysis. Each team includes an animal-care specialist, responsible for conducting shelter inspections; interviewing staff; making recommendations to the team architect on design changes; and analyzing housing, feeding, euthanasia, and office procedures; and a team architect, responsible for providing architectural renderings for recommended renovations and/or new building construction. The team may also include a management consultant, a certified fund-raising executive, an attorney, or a disaster-planning coordinator.

Lapham served as animal-care specialist and Sakach as disaster-planning coordina-

tor for the evaluation of Santa Barbara County Animal Control's three shelters. Sakach analyzed the county's needs to provide for animals during earthquakes, oil spills, and forest fires.

The evaluation team issues two reports: One is submitted at the conclusion of an on-site visit, which identifies concerns the shelter should address within six to eight weeks. The second, issued approximately eight weeks after the visit, includes a comprehensive, detailed accounting of the evaluation, along with necessary architectural renderings, shelter procedures, and reports from specialized team members.

Shelters interested in obtaining more information on evaluation team programs and cost should contact Nicholas P. Gilman at The HSUS (2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037; [202] 452-1100). Evaluations may be requested only by a shelter director or board of directors.

## DIRECTOR'S COMMENT

By Charlene Drennon

There are many new and difficult issues involving cats these days: mandatory spay/neuter laws; an increase in cat rabies (annually there are now more rabies incidents involving cats than dogs); huge cuts in animal-control budgets throughout our region; dog-license fees being used to pay for cat control; and controversial feral-cat colonies. All of these issues generate excited, emotional responses that too often offer only partial, or even unworkable, solutions.

Cats must be given the same status as dogs, with all the legal protection dogs enjoy. Many of us in animal protection are partially responsible for the lack of legal safeguards for cats. Too often we have encouraged the myths that cats are natural predators and need to run loose and that cats are "easy" pets who don't need responsible owners making lifelong commitments. Cats are often treated as "semi-pets": someone feeds them, but no one takes responsibility for veterinary care and other ownership obligations.

HSUS Vice President, Field Services, Randy Lockwood, Ph.D., points out that "cats are not dogs." When someone wants a dog he/she goes out and looks for one at a shelter, pet store, or breeder. Most cats, on the other hand, choose their owner. A Massachusetts SPCA survey revealed that most cats find a home by "just turning up" or through ads giving away "free kittens."

Although ownership of cats has outstripped dog ownership in this nation, cats often lack identification and fall victim to the "HBC disease": hit by car.

The time has come to change this.

The HSUS is working with the Fund for Animals on a California bill to require that outdoor cats be spayed or neutered. (We recommend, however, that all cats be kept entirely indoors.) The California Department of Health is working on regulations concerning cat health.

The HSUS is joining other national animal-protection groups to make 1993 "The Year of the Cat," a year to celebrate the joys and responsibilities of cat ownership. If you are interested in attending our "Year of the Cat" seminar on June 18 in Sacramento, contact us for information. I hope you will join us in our celebration. Whatever your opinion about cat controversies, you won't want to miss this meeting.



# Phyllis Wright: Tireless and Forceful Advocate for Animals

After a long bout with cancer, Phyllis Wright died October 3, 1992, at sixty-five. HSUS members will remember her as the creator of *Shelter Sense*, The HSUS's publication for animal-shelter professionals, and as chief animal-sheltering-and-control specialist for two decades.

Many members will remember Wright in more personal ways. She was a mentor to hundreds of people, but she made each of us feel as though we were her special friend.

In Wright's early career, she trained military dogs and owned a boarding kennel. She managed the Washington (D.C.) Animal Rescue League and served as a board member of the nonprofit Tail Waggers Animal Clinic. In Maryland she served as Prince George's County animal-control commissioner for seven years and helped found the Montgomery County Humane Society. Joining The HSUS in 1969, Wright became the organization's chief liaison with animal shelters in 1975. In 1983 she was named vice president, Companion Animals.

Once Wright arrived on the national scene, she never stopped moving. She trav-

eled throughout the country, sometimes making three or four trips a month, to testify before state and local legislatures, speak at professional meetings, inspect animal shelters, or train shelter staff.

Wright was confronted with a broad spectrum of performance in animal sheltering and control: some programs were national models; others were no more than rural "pits." She was equipped to handle any challenge, from the most sophisticated legislative program to a basic sanitation regimen. Officials who dragged their heels on making needed improvements were sharply rebuked, but they often ended up among her admiring disciples.

Phyllis Wright was instrumental in improving euthanasia methods and worked tirelessly at the same time for spay/neuter programs to eliminate the need for euthanasia. She founded The HSUS's Animal Control Academy and, in countless other ways, increased the professionalism of the animal-control field.

Many of us feel profound loss at Phyllis Wright's passing. However, to honor her memory, we can continue her work for animals.



*Phyllis Wright's dedication to animal protection shone through her life's work.*

## Reflect for a moment . . .

*HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?*

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you're gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

**Please send will information to:**

Name

Address

City

State

Zip code

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.

## Following HSUS Model, San Francisco Bans Animal Sacrifice

In August the San Francisco Board of Supervisors approved a measure to prohibit animal sacrifice and the sale of animals for sacrificial purposes within the city limits. The ordinance was introduced by Supervisor Carole Migden at the request of San Francisco Animal Care and Control after its investigations revealed that hundreds of animals were being killed in cruel rituals each year. The measure is based on a model ordinance recommended by The HSUS; violations may be punished as misdemeanors, with penalties of up to a \$1,000 fine and a year in jail.

"Some cases that have been brought to

our attention may be the result of rituals performed by self-styled Satanists, in which dogs, cats, chickens, and other animals are mutilated. We also believe many animals are cruelly killed by practitioners of Santeria and Palo Mayombe," said WCRO Investigator Eric Sakach in his testimony before the board. "In light of what we now know about the correlations between cruelty to animals and acts of violence toward people, any finding of mutilated animals is cause for concern."

The HSUS has been active nationwide in combatting animal sacrifice through legislation and other legal means.